

UB represents the unconsolidated bottom *class* defined as:

“all wetland and deepwater habitats with at least 25% cover of particles smaller than stones, and a vegetative cover less than 30%. Unconsolidated Bottoms are characterized by the lack of large stable surfaces for plant and animal attachment.”

H represents the permanently flooded *water regime* where:

“Water covers the land surface throughout the year in all years. Vegetation is composed of obligate hydrophytes.”

For a more detailed explanation of NWI map codes, consult the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 1993 publication “NWI Maps Made Easy: A User’s Guide to National Wetlands Inventory Maps of the Mountain-Prairie Region”, or the USFWS 1999 publication “Mapping Conventions Used to Identify Wetlands Within the Northern Rocky Mountains and Great Plains”.

Riparian

Riparian habitats were mapped according to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service standard, “A System for Mapping Riparian Areas in the Western United States” (1997). This system defines riparian as:

“... plant communities contiguous to and affected by surface and subsurface hydrologic features of perennial or intermittent lotic [flowing] and lentic [still] water bodies (rivers, streams, lakes or drainage ways). Riparian areas have one or both of the following characteristics: 1) distinctly different vegetative species than adjacent areas, and 2) species similar to adjacent areas but exhibiting more vigorous or robust growth forms. Riparian areas are usually transitional between wetland and upland.”

The riparian system is hierarchical and uses system, subsystem, and class as well as the optional subclass and dominance types (Appendix B). An example of a riparian habitat that was mapped as a part of the Yellowstone River project is Rp1FO where:

Rp is the *system* and stands for riparian which is transitional between wetland and upland plant communities.

1 is the *subsystem* which reflects the water source for the riparian area and represents lotic or flowing water.

FO is the *class* which describes the dominant non-hydrophytic life form of riparian vegetation, in this case forested. Forested (FO) is defined as: “woody vegetation usually greater than 6 m. in height.”

Subclasses and dominance types were not used for this mapping effort.